



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

PANDAS AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndromes (PANS) may occur when strep or a similar infection causes a misdirected immune response resulting in the inflammation of the brain; and
- WHEREAS: The inflammatory process irritates a region of the brain that manages a variety of functions such as movement, cognitive perception, habit, executive thinking, emotions, and the endocrine system; and
- WHEREAS: Initial symptoms of PANDAS and PANS include a sudden, dramatic change in personality displayed as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, which may appear as intense fear or anxiety, following a strep, bacterial, or viral infection; and
- WHEREAS: PANS may also occur due to environmental triggers or immune dysfunction. Accompanying symptoms may include tics, anxiety, depression, behavioral regression, deterioration in school performance, sensory sensitivities, and severely restricted food intake, among others; and
- WHEREAS: PANDAS and PANS primarily affect children. It is estimated that nearly 160,000 individuals in the United States have been diagnosed with PANDAS; and
- WHEREAS: PANDAS is not well understood and those affected are therefore often misdiagnosed or undertreated. Treatment for PANDAS or PANS varies based on the needs of each patient, but may include the use of antibiotics, steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin, plasmapheresis, cognitive behavioral therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications; and
- WHEREAS: Increasing public awareness of PANDAS and PANS will strengthen research efforts, expand treatment options, and provide those impacted by the syndromes with a better quality of life; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2017, as PANDAS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF